

History of El Paso Chamber of Commerce, 1899 to 1920, As Set Forth in Summarized Annual Reports of All the Past Presidents

for El Paso traveling people. This reduction amounted to \$1.00 between El Paso and Kansas City. Important rate reductions were also forecast. After the meeting the members of the Board had a supper served in the basement of the Chamber of Commerce, being one of the first uses of this large room of the Chamber of Commerce, which in 1919 became a grill room for the benefit of the business interests of the City.

—1910—

The 1910 annual report of the Chamber of Commerce took the form of an 80-page book, covering the progress of El Paso during the year 1910 from every angle, and among the developments and achievements during the year, and recommendations for the new year are the following:

(a) An apportionment to the Elephant Butte Dam project of \$4,500,000.00.

(b) Congress appropriates \$60,000.00 for a site for a new postoffice building in El Paso.

(c) Movement set on foot to build a \$1,000,000.00 hotel in El Paso.

(d) The large buildings erected in El Paso during this year were: Mills Building, 12 stories; Rio Grande Valley Bank Building, 7 stories; Two Caples Buildings, 5 stories each; Roberts-Banner Building, 5 stories; American National Bank Building, 7 stories.

(e) Sending of a special delegation to the National Irrigation Congress at Pueblo, Colorado, to defeat Colorado's program condemning the Elephant Butte Dam project.

(f) During this year El Paso became the center for news of Mexican Insurrection.

(g) Toyah Valley railroad construction assured by raising of guarantee at Pecos.

(h) Report of railroads entering El Paso show 470,000 car loads of freight brought into this city during 1910. Thru efforts of the traffic department, reduction in prices on Pullman berths from \$7.50 to \$6.50.

(i) El Paso Cement Works start operation.

(j) Westminster Presbyterian Church decides to erect a \$40,000.00 building.

(k) Bridge connecting Juarez and El Paso, costing \$245,000.00, under construction.

(l) Contract signed by Mayor Sweeney for construction of garbage and sewer disposal plant at cost of \$100,000.00.

(m) Major Jos. U. Sweeney and J. A. Chappell go to Washington in connection with Chamizell case.

(n) During this year the Tri-State Telephone Company took over all Bell Companies in El Paso and vicinity.

(o) Special census untaken by Chamber of Commerce as check on governmental census.

(p) El Paso Retail Merchants organized Association.

(q) Irrigation Experts of Government hold convention in El Paso.

(r) O. H. Baum announces the erection of a 5-story building at San Antonio and El Paso streets.

(s) The review appearing in the Herald of 1910 clearly shows that much space in the newspapers was taken up this year with agi-

tations and discords in the operation of the schools, clearly demonstrating that lack of education in the direction of education is a handicap.

(t) Reclamation officers in El Paso receive instructions to prepare for work on the Elephant Butte Dam.

(u) Chamber of Commerce takes lead in asking Governor Campbell to repeal the insurance law.

(v) The National Bank of Commerce and the First National Bank consolidated.

(w) El Paso subscribes \$1,000.00 for Fall Fair.

(x) El Paso Merchants meet Chamber of Commerce to prepare for fire insurance fight.

(z) City Council adopts resolutions for presentation to the State Legislature, asking for amendment to El Paso charter to extend bond limit.

(aa) Chas. N. Bassett is elected President of the Fair Association and date set from October 29th to November 28th. The Chamber of Commerce in this connection work very closely with the Fair Association.

(bb) Plans announced for big office building for Southern Pacific Lines in El Paso.

(cc) Telephone line is completed to Clint.

(dd) City officials order all overhead wires and poles removed from streets in two years.

(ee) As an indication that the playground idea has not yet been evolved in El Paso, Mayor Robinson orders that school children shall not use the school playgrounds during vacation time.

(ff) Railroad is started to Elephant Butte Dam.

(gg) The files for 1910 indicate great activity in poisoning, murders and suicides, and no lack of work for the police department.

(hh) Enlargement of El Paso Smelter as planned.

(ii) Members of El Paso Municipal band to go on strike, and concert called off in Public Square.

(jj) Board of Army Engineers arrive in El Paso to investigate Reclamation project.

(kk) International Medical Association of Mexico holds convention in El Paso.

(ll) The Horse Show proves a big feature of El Paso Fair during month of October.

(mm) El Paso Ministerial Union become active against amusement places on Sunday.

(mmm) Census of El Paso is officially announced as 39,279.

—1911—

The final meeting of the Board of Directors for the year 1911 was held on January 24th, 1912, with James G. McNary, President, presiding.

Among the interesting facts brought out in the way of recommendations and reports were the following:

(a) The year 1911 was an unsettled one with uncertainty in financial circles of the entire country. Activities in almost every line was depressed. This same held true in El Paso. El Paso during this year felt keenly the reaction of the unsettled conditions in

Mexico, Northern Mexico being one of its principal trade out-lets.

(b) During this year the Chamber of Commerce entertained Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, Ex-Vice-President Chas W. Fairbanks, Honorable Francisco Madero,—later President of Mexico, Colonel D. C. Collier, Director General of the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego; Mr. G. Grosvenor Dawe, Managing Director of the Southern Commercial Congress; General Joseph W. Duncan and his Staff Officers; Secretary of War Stimpson; General Leonard A. Wood, and others.

In this connection Mr. McNary says: "Attention paid to men of prominence who stop off here or passing through El Paso is not done for what pleasure might be derived from it to any of our membership who participate in the entertainment but because it is a public duty and reacts favorably to the community."

(c) Special work along legislation, especially a new mining law for Texas; the securing of an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the maintenance by the United States Government of the National Quarantine line; the favorable settlement of the Chamizell case; the I&GN bill and the Corporation Tax Law.

(d) Special efforts to secure conventions with the handicap of high rates and long distance, but succeeded in bringing to El Paso for 1912, the Panhandle Stockman's Association of Texas; work to secure the 1913 convention of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas—worth in money to El Paso from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

In this connection Mr. McNary states: "If your Chamber of Commerce did nothing else but be the means of bringing to El Paso one or two conventions of this magnitude a year, it is well worth the small amount you are called upon to contribute toward its maintenance."

(e) Excursions to Elephant Butte Dam site; and one to Pecos Valley and West Texas.

(f) Organization of Farmers' Institute.

(g) Sending of the largest delegation of any city to the 18th National Irrigation Congress at Chicago; and in the election of R. F. Burges as fifth vice president and Felix Martinez as executive chairman of the state; delegates were appointed during the year to other congresses.

(h) Establishment of Pearson mills in El Paso and other industries approximating an investment of \$2,000,000. The Pearson mill adds hundreds of people to the population of El Paso.

(i) On the bringing of industries Mr. McNary enunciates a principle which establishes an excellent policy upon which to operate during subsequent administrations:

"We have carefully investigated every manufacturing proposition submitted. Many were found undesirable, while others were found to have for their sole object in seeking a new location, the chance to sell an additional